



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 9, 2014

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OBWB Directors

Doug Findlater - Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
Chair,** Regional District of
North Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Bob Fleming, Regional District
of North Okanagan

Keith Fielding, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Patty Hanson, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Gary Litke, Regional District of
Okanagan-Similkameen

Allan Patton, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Stu Wells, Regional District of
Okanagan-Similkameen

James Pepper, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Don Dobson, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB is 10 a.m. November 4,
2014 at Regional District of
Central Okanagan in Kelowna.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan approves renewal of Water Management Program: Directors were given an update on the Water Management Program, noting all three regional district boards have approved its renewal for another four years. The program includes the Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board), the Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program, Water Science and Research, and Communications and Outreach. Activities include the Water Supply and Demand Project, groundwater monitoring, workshops and conferences, the grant program and various outreach projects (e.g. Okanagan WaterWise).

Water Board's 2015-16 budget approved: The Board approved the OBWB 2015-16 budget with no increase in spending. The overall requisition is \$3.4 million, or 5.9 cents/\$1,000 of assessment. OBWB programs include the Sewage Facilities Grant Program to help local governments upgrade old sewage systems, the Milfoil Control Program, the Water Management Program (outlined above), and the UBCO Water Research Chair endowment fund. This is the final payment toward the UBCO endowment. For more on the OBWB and its programs please visit www.obwb.ca.

Milfoil rototilling underway: Rototilling is underway in Osoyoos Lake with work to start in Okanagan and Wood Lakes on October 15. Rototilling (de-rooting) is the most effective way to control this invasive aquatic plant. Learn more – check out our videos at: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL11479BF5E31A0F82.

Board updated on continued efforts to prevent invasive mussels: The board was updated on a recent resolution presented by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce (CoC) to the national CoC regarding zebra and quagga mussels, and adopted. The resolution included a call to the federal government to pass pending legislation to allow Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA) to stop and inspect incoming watercraft and provide support to provinces to combat the mussels. The Union of BC Municipalities also passed a resolution at its recent convention calling on the province to initiate and fund inspection stations. According to provincial staff, some initial training of CBSA officers has been held in anticipation of federal legislation, and they are exploring a perimeter defence strategy. The board will send a letter to the province acknowledging progress to date and encouraging efforts to continue.

Water Stewardship Council sets key issues for coming year: The Council has been discussing a work plan for the coming year and a focus on key issues, including groundwater, water pricing, and environmental flow (planning for water scarcity and flooding). The council meets monthly on a volunteer basis and is made up of representatives from various agencies with an interest in water, including First Nations, local and senior government, farmers, realtors, academics and more. For more, visit: www.obwb.ca/about-the-council/

Okanagan water survey underway: A survey is being conducted over the next few weeks in the valley to gauge awareness around water issues. This is an update to a similar survey done in 2009.

For more information, please visit: www.OBWB.ca